



The Villager

Newsletter of the Davidsonville Area Civic Association

Vol. 40, No. 2

P. O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

July-August 2013

Notes from DACA's 40th Annual Meeting

Senator Ed Reilly presented an Official Citation from the Senate of Maryland in recognition of DACA's 40 years of service.

The Senate of Maryland
Official Citation

*Be it hereby known to all that
sincerest congratulations are offered to
Davidsonville Area Civic Association
on the celebration of your
40th Anniversary*

*with gratitude, congratulations and best wishes
for your continued committed stewardship
to your community.*

Presented this 6th day of June 2013

By Senator Edward R. Reilly

of Anne Arundel County – Legislative District 33.

Harlan Ray will frame it and DACA will display it on the wall in the conference room at DFRC.

Senator Reilly reported on the recently ended 90-day session of the Legislature, which he described as difficult. The state budget was increased by six percent for the sixth year in a row; it is now \$36 billion. New fees began with the new fiscal year on July 1st: the stormwater fee attached to property taxes; increased tolls on the Bay Bridge; and the increased gas tax.

Senator Reilly said he opposed the Firearm Safety Act, which was passed; he supported repeal of the death penalty. He said the next session will be difficult and controversial with fewer bills introduced, because it will be the year preceding elections.

County Executive Laura Neuman said she knows well the words *Keep South County Rural*. She has met with various citizens' groups throughout the county and she plans to re-evaluate how each department is serving the community and will work to bring each department into the 21st century, upgrading salaries and the communications system.

She will appoint a panel to do this, comprised of citizens, lawyers, and county employees. She praised the new staff as smart, dedicated, extraordinary. The new fire chief, Michael E. Cox, is willing to work with volunteers; Will Biddle praised the workers at the landfills. Jerry Coffman asked about the "rain tax" (see page 3) and why Anne Arundel is one of only ten jurisdictions in the state being taxed for it; Ms. Neuman replied that the only criterion was population; the ten largest – Baltimore City and nine counties. She noted that Virginia and Pennsylvania are not imposing the stormwater fees.

Martin Zehner invited her to come to the Farmers Market to meet the vendors; she characterizes farmers as patriotic, independent entrepreneurs.

County Council member Jerry Walker spoke of the drama of the past County Council and adjusting to the new executive. He is in his third year on the Council and he says it is a different group from when he was new—these members are all type A personalities. They worked to make this budget cycle of negotiations the smoothest ever. He said Laura Neuman is doing a great job.

(More on page 3)

DACA members and their contributions

Thanks to Faith and Jerry Bange, Joelle and Donny Brooke, Karen Brooks, John Bruins, Paul and Mary Dallavalle, Kate Fox, Rick and Trish Keegan, David and Yvonne Morrison, Daniel and Barbara O'Donnell, Hassan and Teresa Sadeghin, and Alton Sadler for their contributions to DACA in addition to renewing their dues.

Special thanks to David and Peggy Boggs and to Diana Peckham, for their contributions over and above their life memberships.

Welcome new residents to Davidsonville, Jim and Marolyn Simpson, who joined DACA even before they moved in!

Great newsletter . . . thx for all you do. How do we know if we owe DACA dues \$\$? MM
 Printed copies have an expire date with the address. I finally decided to notify email recipients (unnamed list) by expire date. I hope I don't forget ---. Gail

Prefer the email. Nice job, by the way. Thanks for all you do! T.S.

From the Ruritan Club

Hi Gail-

My intention in writing to you is to express our sincere appreciation for the nice article in the last issue that you must have written about Ruritan. It was very well done and our members are grateful for your work. As a community member, thanks for all that you do. Russ Smith

Thanks, Gail, for all your hard work ☺ E.L.

Impressive! Don Opedal

Keep up the good work. Maybe feature our Rte #424 vegetable stand farmers T.K.

Alan Covington built a permanent stand at Marco Ridge and is now open for business. Bobby Chase's farm stand began with his wife Margie's father's stand more than 50 years ago. Mark Scible's Y Worry Farm and Hopkins' U-Pick Strawberries are seasonal. Anyone want to write about them?

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DACA's 40th Annual meeting

continued from page 1)

The Stormwater Management Watershed Protection and Restoration Special Revenue Fund and Program, aka **Stormwater Restoration Fund**, was enacted by the County Council when they overrode the County Executive's veto and passed a number of amendments. It took effect on July 1st and will be administered by the County Department of Public Works (DPW).

Ginger Ellis of DPW addressed the meeting to explain how the fees will help the Bay. A native of Anne Arundel County, Ms. Ellis grew up on a tobacco farm in Pasadena and now lives in Lothian. She said the three main sources of pollution are water treatment plants, septic systems, and stormwater runoff. Many previous attempts to correct it did not work. Holding ponds must be retrofitted to control water quality; stormwater pipe outfalls need stabilizing; streams need to be restored. The fees are to be used for stormwater remedies rather than management costs, such as for capital improvements like stream and wetland restoration projects; for operation and maintenance of stormwater management systems and facilities; for public education and outreach; for grants to nonprofits for specific projects. Environmentalists and engineers must first assess the watershed to establish priorities; the more heavily developed areas are the most distressed.

The base rate is \$85, to be collected with property taxes. Residential property, tier one, is located in RA or RLD zoning districts. Unimproved property means real property that has no impervious surface. If a nonresidential property is a private road with a separate tax account number not owned by an HOA, the fee is the base rate.

Ann Fligsten, Coordinator of the **Growth Action Network** talked about the need to track growth county-wide. GAN was started in 2007 in order to coordinate community associations to work together for smart growth decisions, to support the county government when it is doing right, and push back when it is not. GAN now has 140 individual members and organizations, including DACA. GAN was instrumental in raising developers' share of impact fees from 20 percent to 80 percent. The newest program is to revisit and scrutinize the county's 16 Small Area Plans by a panel including Kate Fox of DACA, Mike Lofton of the Harwood Civic Association, and Ann Fligsten. GAN's website, growthaction.net is loaded with facts about zoning in Anne Arundel. In line with zoning,

Michelle Corkadell, Chair of the County's Planning Advisory Board, spoke of her support for the Small Area Plans. She lives in Selby on the Mayo peninsula.

The next regular meeting of DACA's Executive Committee will be Thursday, August 1, in the conference room of Ford Hall at the DFRC. *Gail*

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Find your ancestors and other notable citizens at All Hallows' ancient cemetery!

All Hallows Brick Church cemetery contains graves dated as far back as the 17th Century. The current building on Solomons Island Road at Brick Church Road (of course!) was erected in 1730, but older graves have been relocated there and it is still a "live" working burial ground that accepts new occupants even now.

On June 16 the parish unveiled the newly compiled map of the Brick Church cemetery. This was the very sophisticated two-year project of Thomas Stefany, an Eagle Scout in Boy Scout Troop 554. The Stefany family—parents Vivian and Jay, brothers John and Andrew—live in Harbor Hills. Thomas graduated in the top five percent of his class and will leave in August to attend Georgia Tech where he will major in Mechanical Engineering.

Thomas met numerous times with Senior Warden Kate Fox, Cemetery Chair Bridget Blake, and Parish Archivist Joan Placido. He took on this project to earn his Eagle Scout ranking. Part of Thomas's requirement was to supervise Boy Scout troop members in service activities related to his Eagle Scout project. The troop came several times to clean up the cemetery and church grounds after a hurricane; they also mulched and

planted ground cover around the graves to protect the stones from mower damage.

The goal of the project was to document the cemetery as it was in 2011 and 2012. More burials have already taken place since then. The work entailed mapping the location of the visible stones, photographing each one, and transcribing the inscriptions of every headstone.

Thomas, Bridget Blake, and Pam Goffinet, a professional cartographer who specializes in mapping cemeteries, used tape measures and string to lay out a grid of the entire cemetery. From the grid they marked every stone on graph paper and scanned the pages into the computer to print a scaled map of a manageable size and allows it to be updated as new graves are added.

They researched to learn what documentation already exists, including the DAR (Next page please)



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Cemetery map, (from page 4)

transcription project published in 1960. Ross Carrick, who prepared some transcriptions in 2004 for the Maryland GenWeb project, was happy to share his work. Filling in the missing transcriptions was not easy, as many of the stones are badly weathered and some are damaged. It required multiple photographs from different angles and even some stone rubbing, using special paper and techniques to avoid further damage.

All the information is now on a detailed spreadsheet with cross references: inscriptions by grid location and by family name in alphabetical order. An enlarged copy of Thomas's map will be permanently hung in the covered vestibule at the entrance to the Brick Church, along with a guide for its use. It will be an invaluable resource for the many visitors who come to All Hallows searching for the graves of their ancestors, friends and historic personages.

All Hallows' Parsh is grateful to Thomas Stefany and all the people who made it possible to complete this massive effort. It is a beautiful cemetery and you can find your ancestors if they are here.

DACA election

Wayne Reid chaired the re-election of Executive Committee members to the term ending June 2016: Gerry Coffman, Don Opedal, Harlan Ray, Martin Zehner. All had agreed to serve another term, as did the four officers: Will Biddle, Ed Woods, Bob Carobrese, and Gail Enright. As there were no nominations from the floor, all were re-elected by voice vote.

Thanks to Hope Stewart, South County Constituent Services Specialist, for arranging to have the County Executive and Ginger Ellis speak at DACA's meeting. Your enthusiasm and hard work are infectious. To Senator Reilly: We appreciate your continued involvement with and interest in our community. To Laura Neuman: You left a very favorable impression with your frank comments and your understanding of South County. To Ann Fligsten: You did an outstanding job of informing us of what an important service GAN provides the county. To Jerry Walker: We are glad to know that we have your attention and your good intentions. To Ginger Ellis: Your competence puts some [skeptics'] concerns to rest. Special thanks to all the DACA members who made up the eager audience.

Sandra M. Woelfel, CPA

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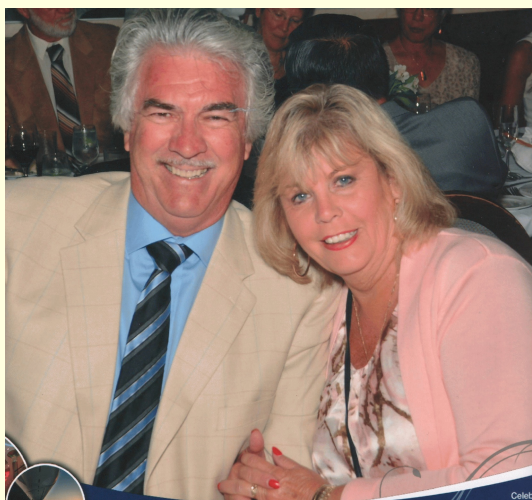
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Oh NOOO! ATW Hardware is closing! *From South River Source by Michelle Stephenson*

The community is losing ATW, the convenient hardware store on Pike Ridge Road in Edgewater. Where you go to find things that Safeway and Home Depot don't carry —Zud? Scouring stone? ATW has it.

Owner Ted Kramer is the first to admit he's had a good run at ATW Hardware, but he's getting out while the getting is still mostly good. He is closing his Edgewater store after 26 years in business. We ran into Kramer on Independence Day as he was putting the "Going Out of Business" sign on the roof of his low-slung building at the corner of Pike Ridge Road and Route 2 in Edgewater. His closing sale started with 30 percent off on Monday, July 8.

Mr. Kramer said he can't quite pinpoint when he made the decision to close. He said he saw the writing on the wall a while back and knew he needed to help his son get settled in a career that wasn't retail hardware. Now his son is settled in a line of work that should have plenty of customers for years to come (HVAC), so Kramer decided to call it a career.

Over the years, ATW has been the go-to store in the area for hard-to-find and everyday hardware supplies. He said that he saw business drop off as the demographics of 21037 and South County have changed.

Fewer tradespeople living in the area and a clientele that likes to shop at the big box stores put a dent in business. New hardware and lumber stores that came to the area didn't help. People would come in and say, "I knew you'd have it!" But they ended up there after going to Home Depot or other stores. Why didn't they just come here first?

Mr. Kramer will liquidate his inventory and then close the doors for good. Michelle, for one, will miss the changing displays on the roof of his building. Me too, says Gail.

Arundel VFD announces its Second 5/10K Run Saturday, October 5, in Crofton

More than 400 runners participated in the First Annual 5K/10K Rescue Run last October. Repeat runners have already begun to register for this year's event.

Entry fee of \$35 (\$40 if you wait until the day of the run) includes refreshment and awards. Online registration is on-line at Active.com or Arundelfire.com. If you register by September 5, you will receive a T-shirt. Fund-raising helps AVFD serve the community by protecting property and saving lives.

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DFRC receives \$7,500 award

In 2005, Torrey Jacobsen, then president—now vice president—of the Greater Crofton Council, negotiated a deal with developers of the Enclave at Riedel Pond in Crofton. The GCC persuaded its member communities not to oppose certain aspects of the development in exchange for grants to county and community organizations. The traffic generated by the new development will be routed so as not to pass through the communities.

In 2005, DACA’s representative to GCC was Dave Gray. He worked to include DAA and the SRHS Boosters among the beneficiaries of the community grants.

Eight years later, they are showing us the money. Twenty-six groups will receive a total \$554,500 from B/A Williams LLC and Coscan Maryland LLC. Crofton’s elementary schools are the big winners, receiving \$25,000 each. Closer to Davidsonville, the South River High School Booster Club will receive \$17,500, Davidsonville Athletic Association will get \$7,500, and \$7,500 will go to the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, through DACA. Representatives of

the builders will present a check for \$7,500 for the DFRC to DACA President Will Biddle at the Greater Crofton Council meeting on July 18th. The complete list of recipients and their awards can be seen at www.greatercroftoncouncil.org.

**DUMC Peach Festival
Saturday, August 10, with Tongues of Fire**

For years now, the “Tongues of Fire” BBQ team of United Methodist Church on Central Avenue has been smoking some of the best BBQ in town. Their menu typically contains mouth watering, scrumptious pulled pork; magnificent BBQ chicken, pulled and by the half; and super delicious and tender sliced beef brisket, along with hamburgers, hot dogs and all the fixin’s, typically accompanied by good ol’ country, boot stomping music.

The next occasion for Great BBQ is the Peach Festival (the best home made peach pies that you will ever dream of eating) on Saturday, August 10.

Don Shankle



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South Maryland Little League Baseball seeks funding for Davidsonville Park

DACA board member John Healy wrote to the *Villager* on behalf of SMLL. The ball club's mission is to have a well and irrigation system installed at Davidsonville Park on Patuxent River Road.

SMLL member Tom O'Farrell estimates a total cost of \$100,000 and has begun a fund raising campaign toward that end. He figures that the well will cost about \$25,000 to \$35,000. They hope to provide irrigation to three fields in the park: a 90-foot baseball field (cost about \$30,000-\$35,000), a nearby 70-foot field, and a smaller field used for girls' softball and baseball for the four-to-eight-year-olds.

The immediate goal is to raise \$20,000, of which they have acquired \$13,000. When they reach \$20,000, they will approach the county for funding to improve this county-owned property. Mr. O'Farrell opined that the county "may" give them \$15,000, but this effort has failed before, so they recognize the need to raise a larger amount from supporters.

SMLL sponsors baseball and softball teams in the

South River/South County area for more than 400 players aged four to 14 years, for skill levels from T-ball to the Little League Major League division. Contributions to Maryland South Baseball Association, Inc. are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Since public parks are for the use of the citizens, it is appropriate for residents and volunteers to support the programs they want for our community. You are invited to send your check, payable to "South Maryland Little League" and mail it to SMLL, P. O. Box 182, Davidsonville, MD 21035. For your convenience, a link has been set up on the MLBB website at www.southmdll.com.

For more information, please contact Louise Wiggins, SMLL Sponsorship/Fundraising Director, at 410-798-8377 or by email to ljwiggs@verizon.net; or call Tom O'Farrell at 410-573-6732 (day) or his cell 240-832-3045.

John Healy



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Go to Jug Bay!

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Phone 410-741-9330. Go to the Web site www.jugbay.org for more details.

Spring and Summer

Public and Volunteer Programs

Registration is required for all programs. To register, please call 410-741-9330 or send an e-mail to programs@jugbay.org for information, directions and updates to our schedule. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary is open to the public 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The Glendening Preserve is open to the public 9:00 am - 5:00 pm every day for hiking, but closed on holidays.

Programs are open to families and individuals. An adult must accompany children under 13. Please note age limits for each program. Reservations and entrance fees are required for all events, unless noted. Adults \$5.00; over 60 \$3.00; children under 18 \$3.00; Families \$10.00; Friends of Jug Bay family membership pays for free admission \$25.00.

Birdwalk

First Saturday of each month; 8:00 - 11:00 am August 3, September 7, etc.

Learn the skills of identifying birds by sight and sound. Experience the amazing bird diversity of the Sanctuary. Binoculars and field guides available to borrow. Not appropriate for children younger than 12.

Butterflies, Birds, and Blooms

Saturday, August 10, 10:00 am - noon.

Explore the Butterfly Garden and surrounding meadows at the Glendening Nature Preserve with a naturalist. We'll look for seasonal butterflies, learn about what flowers are blooming, and spot songbirds and soaring birds of prey. For adults and families with children at least eight years old. Meets at Plummer House.

Explore the Patuxent: Teen Leadership Paddle for students grades 9-12, August 12, 2013. A five day canoeing expedition with three nights camping. The program gives teens a chance to practice leadership and teamwork skills as they navigate the river, measure water quality, camp by the riverside and prepare meals together. Paddlers enjoy a unique, on-the-water experience that features educational programming and builds a strong stewardship ethic for the river and its natural resources. Fee \$200

Public Kayak, August 17, 2013, 9:00 am-3:00 pm, for ages 13 and older, leaves from Wootton's Landing.

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TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT, JUNE 8, 2012 ~ JUNE 6, 2013

JUNE 2012	BALANCES	JUNE 2013
\$2,212.13	PNC Bank, Checking (April bank statement)	\$ 1,404.48
8,874.42	PNC Bank, Savings	8,785.15
3,478.01	BankAnnapolis, Savings	1,484.35
<u>3,274.68</u>	T. Rowe Price Prime Reserve Fund	<u>3,274.72</u>
\$ 17,749.24	TOTAL	\$14,948.70
RECEIPTS		
\$ 1,520.00	Dues	\$ 1,160.00
2,510.00	Advertisements	3,675.00
1,515.00	Contributions	365.00
3,635.00	Green Expo 2012 and 2013	3,175.00
<u>18.23</u>	Bank Refund	<u>.00</u>
\$ 9,198.23	TOTAL	\$ 8,375.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
\$4,490.32	Minuteman Press for <i>Villager</i>	\$ 5,402.80
243.39	U.S.P.S. postage and office supplies	152.00
3,447.00	Contributions	3,150.00
3,218.31	Green Expo 2013	2,116.57
3,000.00	Chesapeake Alliance for A A County law suit	.00
<u>.00</u>	Executive Committee dinner	<u>595.35</u>
\$14,399.02	TOTAL	\$ 11,416.72

Respectfully submitted, Robert A. Carobrese

Note:

When DACA was established the board focused on building a fund for any possible litigation on zoning issues. In the 1970s and 1980s, DACA had significant legal expenses that almost broke the bank. Litigation can be very expensive, and we strive to make it infrequent. With the most difficult zoning issues resolved (mostly) in the first 25 years, the board has become more generous in DACA's charitable contributions. And after nearly 40 years the board finally agreed that volunteers deserved at least a dinner during a business meeting.

DACA's major ongoing expenses have been the *Villager* printing and postage, which are now combined into one statement by Minuteman Press of Crofton, as they have taken over the heavy hauling, literally. Thanks to Andy Morsberger, Gail no longer totes 300 or 400 newsletters (or 3,000 copies in March), to the post office in Eastport. New postal regulations were a major motivation to give the whole job to Minuteman Andy. He also handles the US Postal Service documentation and cost of bulk mail postage, at a great saving to DACA.

In each of the past three years DACA contributed \$250.00 to each of the eight churches in Davidsonville (\$2,000 total) to serve needy residents in Anne Arundel County, in addition to supporting various local environmental organizations. These contributions are reported in the *Villager* as they occur.

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“Traditional” versus “Modern” Farming

by Will Biddle

I began vegetable-gardening when I was fifteen, so I am a novice, having worked at it for only fifty years. Part of my problem is that neither of my parents, nor their parents or grandparents, had grown their own vegetables.

Still learning and still experimenting, I now know enough to discuss gardening techniques with true farmers, like Martin Zehner, whose knowledge is traditional (handed down from former generations), academic (learned from studying the science), and practical (like my own only a lot more of it). Ironically, construction (the industry in which I earned a living) and agriculture share these three branches of knowledge, and both industries share conflicts generated from these divergent sources information.

It should come as no surprise then that on the one hand you will have “traditional” farmers like Martin Zehner (who is actually a lot more than a mere traditionalist) and “modern” farmers who grow genetically modified (GM or sometimes called genetically engineered GE) corn and soybeans using sophisticated equipment, herbicides, and chemical fertilizers. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Monsanto Chemical Company, oil companies, and fertilizer companies which used to make munitions during World War II support modern farming practices. This a mighty alliance of the most powerful entities in the world. They justify their actions by claiming that without modern farming practices our planet would not be able to feed seven billion people.

In contrast, their opposition, traditional farmers, have a few magazines and Michael Pollan (*The Omnivore’s Dilemma*), a best selling author and journalist. Indeed, the movement stems from the Whole Earth Catalog (WEC), which didn’t sell anything but listed prices and where the items could be purchased. Now there is an Organic Gardening Magazine, but unlike WEC, it is a commercial enterprise, not a sociological effort to improve America ecologically.

Despite the heavy odds against traditional farming, the movement is gaining support. The Union of Concerned Scientists, the Master Gardeners programs, and the University of Maryland have all challenged modern farming methods and published scientific papers showing the long term damage that modern farming practices cause. In a pamphlet published by Responsible Technology, the American Academy of Environmental Medicine urges physicians to tell their patients to avoid genetically modified food. “Several animal studies indicate serious health risks associated with GM food.

1. Infertility
2. Immune problems
3. Accelerated aging
4. Faulty insulin regulation
5. Changes in major organs and the gastrointestinal system.”

Martin Zehner told me several years ago that he wouldn’t eat or grow any GM food because no one knew what the long term effects might be. How right he was. However, “GM ingredients are *(Turn to page 12)*

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Traditional vs. Modern Farming (from page 11) found in an estimated 70 percent, or more, of all processed foods.” So unless you grow your own or make all your meals from natural ingredients, you, the reader, are eating GM food. If the product has high fructose corn syrup or any corn product other than organically grown corn you are eating GM food. Most meat, whether it is chicken, beef or pork is predominately fed with GM produce.

In short, the USDA, instead of making sure we are eating healthy food, has insured America can grow enough grain to feed oil-producing countries (the only ones who can afford to buy huge quantities of American grain) so that we can buy their oil to make fertilizer to grow more food for them. What is wrong with this? It is not like the residents of oil-producing countries dance happily in the streets every time the US ambassador drives by in his armored motorcade! The USDA appears to be the only entity on Earth that has NOT figured out this enigma.

The skeptical reader may reason that all this may be true, but the alternative would be to let billions of people starve. Then that reader will buy a Smithfield ham from

a pig raised in a factory in the most inhumane manner conceivable and say, “America feeds the world, hooray for us, let’s tar and feather that radical president of DACA.” Before you start heating the tar, read on. The science doesn’t support the supporters of GM food crops.

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), currently chaired by a Harvard University science professor, evaluated 13 years of data to see if GM crops really did yield more than traditionally grown crops. GM crops out yielded traditional crops by a whopping three to four percent. At what cost? Roundup, which is used extensively to kill weeds in GM crops (which are resistant to it), has now reached practically all ground water where GM crops are grown extensively. So when you get thirsty after eating that Smithfield ham, don’t drink water from your well (or any source in southern AA Co, as it is all well water)... and I’m not sure how good it is to be bathing in water laced with Roundup so maybe you shouldn’t shower or wash your hands either. After all, Roundup kills plants as they absorb the poison through their leaves. In case you’re interested, the same company that makes Roundup also makes (To page 13, please)

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“Traditional” vs. “Modern” (from page 12)

GM seeds: Monsanto. What a coincidence!

Well, what harm can Roundup really do in our well water? Type in Roundup and cancer on Google. Over ten million results pop up. What type of cancer? Non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Once relatively uncommon, this is now the fifth leading type of cancer in the United States. Just another coincidence, I suppose.

Okay, so there is a problem. What is to be done? UCS calls what I call modern farming “industrial agriculture.” If you want to replace modern farming, the name must be changed. Likewise, they call traditional farming “agro-ecological agriculture.” True, you don’t want to go back to traditional agriculture, so we will rename it as well. UCS’s four steps to agro-ecological agriculture are:

1. Foster biodiversity. Increase uncultivated areas. Reinststate a wood-lot.
2. Rotate a wider variety of crops, including legumes such as peas, beans, alfalfa and clover which naturally add nitrogen to the soil. Greater diversity will reduce the need for insecticides as well as herbicides.
3. Reintegrate livestock and crops. Instead of dumping manure from giant confined animal feeding operations (CAFO) into lagoons which eventually spill into our rivers and are a major source of pollution, spread the manure on fields instead of using chemical fertilizers. CAFOs are currently only more efficient (i.e. profitable) because CAFOs don’t have to pay to clean up the environmental nightmares downstream from their operations. Animals raised on farms require a small

fraction of the antibiotics that CAFO-raised animals do. Meat and dairy products from grass fed animals contain the same amount of omega-three fats that farm raised salmon does. And for animal rights advocates, farm raised animals are treated far more humanely than they are at CAFOs just by the fact that they are allowed to browse freely in a pasture.

4. Use more cover crops. By using cover crops instead of chemical fertilizers, farmers can reduce ground water pollution from nitrogen by 40 to 70 percent (Tonitto, David, and Drinkwater, 2006), by plowing them under farmers add organic matter which improves the soil’s water-holding capacity.

Now that I think about it, my neighbor Martin Zehner has been doing all these things ever since I met him 25 years ago. I guess he’s one of these new fangled agro-ecological farmers and not a traditional farmer at all. Will

The Governor’s Bridge across the Patuxent River is due to open in mid-August, after repairs to the structure are completed.

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County Councilman Dick Ladd's July letter

The County Council passed County Executive Neuman's FY2014 budget in a process less acrimonious than in previous years, in large part due to the improvement in our revenue situation and the improved relationship between the County Executive's Office and the unions. The budget was adjusted shortly after its submission to incorporate the Watershed Preservation and Restoration Fund (WPRF) established by the Council as mandated by the State.

The County's depleted contingency and reserve funds were restored to pre-recession levels. These reserves provide revenue predictability to the Board of Education and the Anne Arundel Community College, which depend on County funding.

Revenue estimates are up nearly \$100 million (including the WPRF), nearly 7.5% over FY2013. This includes an increase in property taxes as allowed by the Charter (about \$26 per average household); higher income tax receipts from an *(next page please)*

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Councilman Ladd from page 14 improving economy; property recordation and transfer fees slightly below FY2013 actuals but substantially above our FY2013 budget estimate; and higher fund balances, projected cash on hand that will carry forward to FY2014, due to the improvement in the 2013 real estate transfer fees.

The Council reduced the proposed 5% increase in water and sewer rates to 3% -- a reduction of \$10 million in revenue to the County water and sewer utility funds based on funds available.

On the expenditure side, the Council funded the County Executive's proposed 3% pay raises (the first in many years), effective January 2014, plus 3% merit increases. Additional public safety capability was funded for the area around Arundel Mills Mall and Maryland Live.

The Council deleted construction funding for three elementary schools pending completion of an update to the Board of Education school construction plan (MGT). As an indication that the Council supports the three schools, it added \$750,000 to complete a feasibility study for each one.

Pressure on the capital budget is mounting with the need for a new police training facility, recapitalization of the library system, the Community College and the county IT systems and network. That category of "infrastructure backlog" is estimated by the Budget Office to be at least \$2 billion -- roughly a 20-year "recapitalization" plan under foreseeable funding patterns. Along with restoring our reserve accounts, the budget starts bringing the average age and mileage of our vehicle and maintenance equipment fleet back to manageable proportions.

Anne Arundel County's property and income tax costs are lower than Baltimore, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's Counties and the City of Baltimore, which leads me to think of our county as a very high quality, cost effective place to live.

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The Villager

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